

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213889

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE

SUBJECT: THE ICRC ROLE IN CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON

1. PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH THE ICRC AUTHORITIES TO EXPLAIN THAT WE RECENTLY SENT INTO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON TWO FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS ON A FACT-FINDING MISSION. THIS WAS MADE NECESSARY BECAUSE PERSONNEL IN OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO CROSS THE CONFRONTATION LINE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH CHRISTIAN LEADERS.

2. DURING THEIR VISIT, THE TWO OFFICERS LOOKED INTO THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORT BEING CONDUCTED BY THE ICRC FROM JOUNIEH. THEY DID THIS BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING INCREASING CRITICISM THAT HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY THE U.S., ARE NOT BEING CARRIED OUT EQUITABLY, I.E., CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON IS NOT RECEIVING ITS SHARE.

3. ICRC OFFICIALS IN JOUNIEH INDICATED TO OUR OFFICERS THAT THEY PLAN TO PHASE OUT THEIR PROGRAM OF COMMODITY IM-
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PORTS IN A FEW MONTHS, AND THESE COMMODITY IMPORTS INCLUDE

A FULL RANGE OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES. WE ARE SURPRISED THAT A
CUTBACK IS BEING CONSIDERED AND WOULD APPRECIATE THE VIEWS

OF THE ICRC HEADQUARTERS ON THIS QUESTION.

4. OUR OFFICERS INCIDENTALLY CONCLUDED AFTER VERY BRIEF
VISIT THAT THERE WAS NO SERIOUS NEED FOR ANY INCREASE
IN HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE FACED
HERE WITH CLAIMS FROM LEBANESE EMISSARIES THAT MEDICAL
NEEDS, BOTH FOR SUPPLIES AND SKILLED PERSONNEL, ARE
STAGGERING. KISSINGER

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